

Notes on some East Anglian Beetles

By ROY CROSSLEY, F.R.E.S.*

During a brief touring holiday in East Anglia with my wife in June 1976, the opportunity was taken to collect insects at a number of localities. On 9th June I was able to examine the basin of a small dried out pond at the edge of a copse between Thetford and Attleborough and the following beetles were found, chiefly underneath matted algae, old motor tyres and small pieces of wood: *Dyschirius luedersi* Wag., *Bembidion assimile* Gyll., *B. doris* (Panz.), *Pterostichus strenuus* (Panz.), *Amara plebeja* (Gyll.), *Stenolophus mixtus* (Herbst), *Acupalpus consputus* (Duft.), *Platystethus cornutus* (Grav.), *P. nitens* (Sahlb.), *P. nodifrons* (Mann.), *Stenus boops* Ljungh, *S. canaliculatus* Gyll., *S. formicetorum* Mann.

On the following day we visited Salthouse on the north Norfolk coast and for about an hour we searched the edge of a salt marsh and a shallow creek just behind the sea bank. Here we found *Bembidion ephippium* (Marsh.) in abundance and also *B. varium* (Ol.) and *B. minimum* (Fab.). It was by the side of the shallow creek that I found the three British *Pogonus* species. Both *P. chaldeus* Marsh. and *P. littoralis* Duft. were taken but as I did not separate the two species until I had mounted them at home I do not know in what relative proportion they occurred. I took five specimens in all, assuming them to be *chalceus* but on examination three proved to be *littoralis*. A single female *P. luridipennis* Germ. was taken but no more were seen. I understand from Mr. D. R. Nash (*in litt.*) that this species was first discovered in Britain at Salthouse by Rev. J. Burrell in 1806 and according to records so far received by Dr. M. L. Luff in connection with the Carabidae Mapping Scheme there are only five other 10 Km. squares from which the species has recently been recorded, all of them being in eastern and southern England. *P. littoralis* is slightly more widespread with a similar distribution pattern, being recorded from thirteen 10 Km. squares in all (M. L. Luff, *in litt.*).

That evening we were at Burnham Overy Staithe and walking along the sea wall we saw many specimens of *Malachius barnevillei* Puton on flower heads. As I did not know which species of *Malachius* they were but felt that I should take some for the record, and not having any tubes with me, my wife kindly obliged by emptying the money out of her purse into my pocket and carried a few specimens back to the car safely locked up in her handbag! It was only later that I realised we had stumbled across one of the Norfolk specialities swarming by the side of a public path.

At the beginning of June 1977 I paid a further brief visit to East Anglia and amongst the beetles collected on that occasion it is perhaps worth recording *Bembidion nigricorne* Gyll. at Roydon Common near King's Lynn, *Silpha laevigata*

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Fab. at Santon Downham near Thetford, and *Bledius unicornis* (Germ.) and *B. spectabilis* Kraatz at Burham Overy Staithe.

Mr. D. R. Nash suggested that I should prepare this note after seeing the species lists which I compiled following my visits to Suffolk and Norfolk, and it is a pleasure to record my thanks to him for much advice. Drs. A. G. Irwin and M. L. Luff supplied information on the records of *Pogonus* species and I am obliged to both gentlemen. I am also obliged to Mr. C. Johnson for assistance with the determination of the Staphilinidae, and Mr. J. H. Flint kindly identified *Silpha laevigata* and confirmed my identification of *Malachius barnevillei*.

THE VESTAL: RHODOMETRA SACRARIA L. AND OTHER LEPIDOPTERA AT TONBRIDGE. — On the night of August 1st 1980, I was fortunate to take a male Vestal in my Robinson m.v. trap operating in my garden. In view of the limitations of the suburban environment the recording of one Scarce Prominent (*Odontosia carmelita* Esp.) on 13th May 1979 and an occasional Alder Moth (*Acronicta alni* L.) are perhaps also worthy of note. — A. E. TAPP, 48, Hunt Road, Tonbridge, Kent.

OULIMNIUS MAJOR (REY) (= *O. FALCIFER* BERTHELEMY) (COL.: ELMIDAE) NEW TO BRITAIN. — I have to report that I found three examples of this species, hitherto unrecorded in Britain, in a tributary of the River Severn, on the 30th June 1980. Mr. Peter Hammond (Br. Mus. Nat. Hist.), to whom I sent a drawing of the aedeagus, kindly agreed with the determination. The specimens were accompanied by several *Oulimnius troglodytes* (Gyllenhal), itself a rare species worthy of note. A paper on this introduction to the British List will follow in due course. — JOHN A. PARRY, 38, Heather Drive, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent.

THE RETURN OF THE ORANGE TIP. — On 27th June 1979 I netted a very tattered female *A. cardamines* at Balinluig, O.S. 27/95. 1980 has confirmed that the species is established in this area, as it is also, south of Loch Tummel, O.S. 27/85. — J. R. MILLER, Sealladh-Mhor, Crieff, Perthshire.

SCROBIPALPA OCELLATELLA (BOYD) (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE) ON CULTIVATED BEET. — On 22.iii.1980, I collected some larvae of *S. ocellatella* feeding on *Beta maritima* at Plymouth. Since I had collected insufficient foodplant, I later offered them the leaves of cultivated spinach beet, which they ate readily, and from which normal adults eventually emerged. — P. J. JOHNSON, 7 Haverhill Road, Horseheath, Cambridge, CB1 6QR.

PLATYPTILIA ISODACTYLUS ZELLER IN STAFFORDSHIRE. — A single *P. isodactylus* was taken flying at dusk among *Senecio aquaticus* at Aqualate, Staffordshire, on 16th August 1980. There seem to be no records of this species from the Midlands, but it may be worth looking for in undrained meadows, now unfortunately a scarce and diminishing habitat. R. G. WARREN, Wood Ridings, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.